



Star Vision promises wholesome, informative programming for Aruba

Appropriately, on September 1, Aruba's "Dia di Prensa," National Press Day, a new television station, Star Vision, Channel 5, officially began broadcasting from their studios in Paradera Park.

A core element of the station's schedule will be the most highly regarded and broadcasted news service in the world, BBC World News. Attending the opening ceremonies at the station was Mr. Bob DeStefanis, Vice President of Distribution for the Americas. He commented that it was one of the most "fantastic events of this kind" that he had ever attended.

Sharing the podium with Mary Vrolijk, station proprietor for the climactic opening was His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Nelson Oduber, who had the honor of pushing the button on the remote that began the introductory program. This was a dramatic video of the station's lead in, devised by noted local artist Ryan Oduber, with original music and graphics. Also joining the gathering for the opening was the Minister of Health and Environment, Candelario "Booshi" Weaver, and a number of members of Parliament.

The program for the evening also included a sampling of the programming that will be carried by the station, described by Mary Vrolijk as a television network "*by the people and for the people of Aruba.*" Aside from the quality programming offered by the BBC, which will not only include news, but documentaries, children's programming and other entertaining and informative shows, there will be a focus on local performers and original work by Aruban writers, singers, dancers and actors. A ten-part mini-series titled "White Dove" directed by Percy Jeandor and filmed in Aruba entirely in Papiamentu will make its world premier on Star Vision. Robbie Brete will be featured doing local news and commentary, and performing for the gathering was Angela Croes, a talented singer, with an original song in Papiamentu. Mary Vrolijk promised that this a sampling of material that will provide a substantial quantity of the programming.

Also present for the opening was Mr. Puertas of Luz de Mundo, which is religious programming from South America and will be featured by the network. Others addressing the gathering were Pastor Gilbert Martis, who provided the opening prayer, Mr. DeStafanis on behalf of the BBC, and his Excellency, the Prime Minister.

Aruban television viewers were able to simultaneously enjoy the opening ceremonies on Friday evening along with the live audience, and the celebration continued on Saturday, all day, as the station invited the public to attend an all day event at the station. A special bandstand set up for the occasion provided a full day of entertainment; a food and drink stands were present and the day had the air of a county fair as well-wishers came to congratulate Mary Vrolijk on her accomplishment that was more than a year in the making. In a day when parents should be and are concerned about what their children are watching on television, Star Vision is committed to offering program that parents can allow their children to watch without qualms, and which will also encourage the island youth to appreciate their native art and traditions. THE NEWS offers their congratulations in this goal, and a wish for great success for the new broadcast company.